

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 16-34, 38-52, and 56-68 are pending after entry of this paper. Claims 6-15, 35-37, and 53-55 have been withdrawn. Applicants reserve the right to pursue withdrawn claims in a divisional application. New claim 69 has been added. Support may be found throughout the instant specification and originally filed claims, for instance the originally filed claim 68.

Claims 16-19, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 38-40, 42, 44, 46, 56-58, 60, 62, 64, and 68 have been amended to conform to U.S. patent practice with respect to multiple dependencies. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Response to Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. §§121 and 372

Claims 1-68 are pending in this application and have been subjected to election of an invention group pertaining to each disclosed amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1-38 for prosecution on the merits under 35 U.S.C. §121 and §372. In the Examiner's opinion, as set forth in the Detailed Action, the application contains claims directed to thirty eight (38) patentably distinct inventions defined by sequences from SEQ ID NOs: 1-38. For instance, Group I represents SEQ ID NO: 1. The Examiner contends that these groups do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because SEQ ID NOs: 1-38 have different chemical structures (Office Action – page 2). Applicants respectfully disagree.

However, in response to the Restriction Requirement, the applicants **provisionally elect Group I**. Claims 1-5, 16-34, 38-52, and 56-68 encompass the elected invention drawn to an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicants respectfully request allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

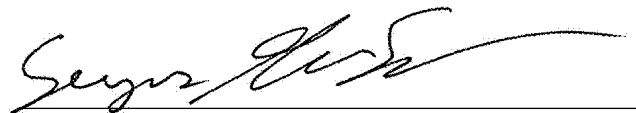
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 4439-4039.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 4439-4039.

Respectfully submitted,
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